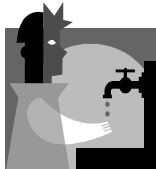


Children with the following conditions do not have to be excluded from school, if they feel well enough to participate in regular school activities:

- Bronchitis
- Colds, without fever
- Cold Sores
- Croup
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection
- Ear Infection
- Fifth Disease
- Chronic Hepatitis B
- Chronic Hepatitis C
- HIV Infection
- Mononucleosis
- Pinworms
- Pneumonia
- Rash without a fever, not spreading
- Red eye without yellow or green discharge, fever or matting
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infection
- Warts

Help your child stay healthy and ready to learn.

We hope that your child never has to miss school because of illness or disease. The best protection from disease is prevention. You can help prevent many illnesses by making sure your child receives immunizations and by making sure your child washes his or her hands often.



SC DHEC / Bureau of Disease Control
Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology
1751 Calhoun Street Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: 803.898.0861 / Fax: 803.898.0897
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Effective July 1, 2007 — June 30, 2009

School Exclusion List



1st — 12th Grades

If you think that your child has an illness that can be spread to others, please keep him or her home from school. Contact your doctor or clinic.

Dear Parents:

A School Exclusion List indicates for which illnesses a child must be kept out of (excluded from) school. It also indicates when medical notes are needed for children to return to school after certain illnesses.

The information in this brochure applies to students in 1st through 12th grades who are not considered to be Medically Fragile. If needed, your child's school will give you information on Exclusion Lists for children in 3, 4 or 5 year old Kindergarten, or students in 1st through 12th grades who are Medically Fragile.

If you have any questions about the School Exclusion List, please contact your child's school or your local health department.

When should children stay home from school?

Children should not attend school if they have an illness that prevents them from participating in routine classroom activities. **If your child feels too sick to go to school, please keep him home.**

Children are also excluded if they have symptoms of possibly severe illnesses that they might be able to spread to other children.

Parents should contact a healthcare provider for children with any of the following :

- ♦ Fever
- ♦ Difficulty breathing
- ♦ Unusual tiredness or lack of energy
- ♦ Severe irritability and/or persistent crying (signs of illness in young children)
- ♦ Rapidly spreading rash
- ♦ Severe abdominal pain (over 2 hours) or stomach pain off and on with fever or diarrhea.

Does my child need to stay home when he has a mild cold?

Mild illnesses such as colds are very common among children. Most children with mild colds who have no fever and who feel well enough to go to school do not need to stay home. Most colds are spread in the 1-3 days before children show symptoms such as a runny nose or slight cough.

How long will my child need to stay home if she is sick?

- ♦ The inside of this brochure explains how long children should stay home after they become ill with excludable conditions.
- ♦ Sometimes children will also have to remain home if they are exposed to some diseases — your school or DHEC will discuss this exclusion with you.

What does my child need to come back to school?

The list inside this brochure shows whether or **Medical Note** or **Parent Note** is required to return to school after an exclusion for illness.

Please keep your child home from school if he or she has one of the conditions or illnesses listed below. Call your child's school to let them know why your child is absent. Send the appropriate note when your child returns to school.

Chicken Pox / Varicella

Children with chicken pox may return with a **Parent Note** once all of the sores and blisters are dried/scabbed over, or if there are no scabs, until no new sores appear.

Diarrhea

- ◆ Keep your **1st through 5th grade child** home if he or she has diarrhea (3 or more loose stools in 24 hours), unless the diarrhea is known to be from a non-contagious condition, or if the diarrhea continues after the child completes antibiotics for a diarrhea-causing illness.
- ◆ Your child can return with a **Parent Note** when the diarrhea has stopped.
- ◆ Older children with diarrhea do not have to stay home, unless they are spreading illness in the school setting, or have diarrhea with blood or mucus.
- ◆ Your child must have a **Medical Note** to return to school or out-of-home childcare after having diarrhea that contains blood or mucus.

Diarrhea from *E. Coli*, *Salmonella* or *Shigella*:
Students of any age are excluded for one of these infections. A **Medical Note** is required. Your child may return to school:

- ◆ *E. coli* & *Shigella*: After diarrhea stops.
- ◆ *Salmonella typhi*: After 24 hours without diarrhea.
- ◆ Other types of *Salmonella*: After diarrhea stops.

Fever

- ◆ Keep your child home for a fever 101 degrees or higher by mouth, or 100 degrees or higher

School Exclusion List: A Quick Reference for Parents

if taken under the arm. Your child can return to school with a **Parent Note** when the fever is gone.

Fever with Rash, Behavior Change or other Symptoms

Take your child to a doctor or clinic for any fever if he or she also has a rash, change in behavior, earache, vomiting confusion, sore throat or irritability A **Medical Note** is required to return.

German Measles / Rubella / 3 Day Measles

Keep your child home until 7 days after rash starts. He may return with a **Medical Note**.

Head Lice

School-age with head lice, who are not medically fragile , should be sent home at the end of the school day. Your child may return with a **Parent Note** after her first treatment with a school-approved lice-removal product. Your child’s school may recommend options for head lice treatment.

Hepatitis A / Yellow Jaundice

Children with acute infectious hepatitis may return with a **Medical Note** 1 week after the start of the jaundice.

Impetigo

If your child has honey-colored crusty sores that cannot be covered, he or she should remain home until 48 hours after starting antibiotics, as long as the sores have stopped oozing and are starting to get smaller. Your child will need a **Medical Note** to return to school.

Measles / Red Measles / 10 Day Measles

Children with measles can return with a **Medical Note** 4 days after the rash begins, if they have no fever and feel well enough to participate in regular school activities.

Mumps

Children with mumps can return with a **Medical Note** 5 days after the beginning of swelling.

Pink-eye / Conjunctivitis

- ◆ Children whose eyes are red or pink, and who have eye pain and reddened eyelids, with white or

yellow eye discharge or eyelids matted after sleep may have **Purulent Conjunctivitis**. They should not be in school until they have been examined and treated. A **Medical Note** is required to return.

- ◆ Children with pink eyes who have a clear drainage and no fever, no eye pain, and no eyelid redness do not need to be kept home.

Rash

Take your child to a doctor if he or she has a rapidly spreading rash or a rash with fever or behavior change. A **Medical Note** is required to return.

Ringworm

- ◆ **1st – 5th graders** with **ringworm of the scalp** must remain out of school until they have begun treatment with a prescription oral antifungal medication. Your child may return with a **Medical Note**.
- ◆ **1st – 5th graders** with **ringworm of the body** may return with a **Parent Note** once they have begun oral or topical antifungal treatment, unless the affected area can be completely covered by clothing.
- ◆ Older students with ringworm do not have to remain out of school unless they are spreading illness at school.
- ◆ **Children of any age** with ringworm should not participate in close contact PE or sports activities.

Scabies

Children with scabies should be out of school until treatment/medication has been applied. A **Medical Note** is required to return.

Shingles

Keep children home who have shingles lesions/sores/blisters that cannot be covered. Your child may return with a **Parent Note** once the lesions are dried/scabbed.

Staph or Strep Skin Infections (includes MRSA)

- ◆ A child with draining lesions that cannot be covered, or with sores that ooze through and soak

dressings, should remain home until the draining stops AND the child has been on antibiotics for 48 hours.

- ◆ Children with *Staph* or *Strep* skin infections that are not draining should remain home until after 48 hours of antibiotics AND the sores are showing signs of healing (getting smaller.)
- ◆ Children with oozing or draining sores may not participate in close contact activities or sports.

“Strep Throat” / Streptococcal Pharyngitis
Your child with “Strep throat” can return to school with a **Medical Note** 24 hours after starting antibiotics if there is no fever.

Tuberculosis (TB)
A child with TB should be kept home until the doctor treating the TB writes a **Medical Note** that says that the child is no longer contagious.

Whooping Cough / Pertussis
Children with whooping cough can return to school with a **Medical Note** after completing 5 days of prescribed antibiotics, unless directed otherwise by DHEC or your school nurse.

When Your Child is Exposed to Serious Illnesses

DHEC and your school may recommend that your child be excluded from attendance when he or she is exposed to certain diseases, including *Haemophilus influenzae type B*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, or **Whooping Cough / Pertussis**. DHEC may also recommend antibiotics for close contacts to these diseases.

Children who have not had all recommended immunizations and children who have immune system problems will be excluded from attending school if they are exposed to **Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chicken Pox**, or other conditions identified by DHEC. DHEC will work with your school to identify what immunizations are needed to return.